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🖖 Abstract for American Physical Society, New York Meeting, January 28-31, 1959.

A New Class of Ferroelectrics: Acid Selenites: * R. Pepinsky, K. Vedam,

Y. Okaya and F. Unterleitner, The Pennsylvania State University.

Optical observation of a reversible transition in potassium acid selenite has led to the dielectric examination of other acid selenites. Two new ferroelectric species have therewith been discovered: LiH3(SeO3)2, ferroelectric at room temperature; and NaH3(SeO3)2, ferroelectric below -75°C.

LiH₃(SeO₃)₂ shows well-saturated square hysteresis loops over the temperature range from -190°C to +80°C. At room temperature the spontaneous polarization is 10.0 microcoulombs/cm², and the coercive field is 1.5kv/cm. X-ray observations reveal monoclinic symmetry, space group Pn, with $\underline{a}=6.255$ A, $\underline{b}=7.899$ A, $\underline{c}=5.443$ A, $\beta=105^{\circ}23^{\circ}$. The polar axis is perpendicular to the (OOI) plane. The material appears to be of practical importance.

NaH₃(SeO₃)₂ is not isomorphous with LiH₃(SeO₃)₂. In the room-temperature phase the symmetry is monoclinic, space group P2₁/a, with $\underline{a}=11.77$ A, $\underline{b}=4.84$ A, $\underline{c}=5.80$ A, $\beta=118.5^{\circ}$. The ferroelectric phase has triclinic symmetry (space group P1; if axes are denoted as for room-temperature phase, space group C1). The polar direction is along [310], referred to the monoclinic phase.

*Research supported by Air Force Office of Scientific Research (ARDC),
Signal Corps Engineering Laboratories, and Atomic Energy Commission.

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